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General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/14. Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: eliminating domestic violence

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and noting the relevant recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcomes of their review conferences,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, as well as those of the Commission on Human Rights, on the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including its resolution 69/147 of 18 December 2014 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and those of the Security Council, and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also the political declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session on the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which States pledged to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the resolution, adopted by the World Health Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, on strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children, and noting the recent work on the development of a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against

women and girls and against children, building on existing relevant work of the World Health Organization,

Acknowledging the important and useful role that can be played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives to combat violence against women and girls,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between women and men, and that all forms of violence against women and girls seriously violate and impair or nullify their enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

Gravely concerned that domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains the most prevalent form of violence affecting women of all social strata across the world, and emphasizing that such violence is a violation, abuse or impairment of the enjoyment of their human rights and, as such, is unacceptable,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls, including in the domestic sphere, is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men,

Recognizing also that violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, is, inter alia, a serious violation or abuse of human rights, a societal problem and a manifestation of unequal power relations, and is intrinsically linked with gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate such violence, while stressing that women's empowerment, including women's economic and political empowerment, full and equal access to and control over land and resources, and participation in decision-making processes, are essential for addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including psychological, physical, sexual and reproductive health and the enjoyment of all human rights, that domestic violence against women of all ages can present for individuals and families,

Recognizing the vulnerability of those who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as older women, indigenous women, migrant women and women with disabilities, and the particular risk of violence they face, and stressing the urgent need to address violence and discrimination against them,

Underscoring the fact that shame, stigma, fear of reprisals and negative economic consequences, such as loss of livelihood or reduced household income, prevent many women and girls from leaving dangerous relationships, reporting or acting as witnesses in cases of domestic violence, and seeking redress and justice for these crimes,

Noting with deep concern that children can also be victims of domestic violence, including as witnesses,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage places individuals, in particular the girl child, at risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives, including domestic violence,

Recognizing also that the risk and prevalence of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, are exacerbated in armed conflict and humanitarian crisis situations,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women of any age and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary

deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence;

2. *Also stresses* that domestic violence can take many different forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, economic deprivation and isolation, and neglect, occurs within the family or domestic unit, and generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy;

3. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against women of all ages, including domestic violence, while recognizing that it is an impediment to achieving gender equality and to the full realization of all human rights of women, while expressing concern that domestic violence is the most prevalent and least visible forms of violence against women and girls and that its consequences are long-lasting and profound and affect many areas in the lives of victims;

4. *Recognizes* that violence against women, including domestic violence, can take the form of an isolated act or pattern of abusive behaviour that may occur over a period of time, which as a pattern constitutes violence against women, and can include acts such as cyberbullying and cyberstalking;

5. *Urges* States to strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls, and to refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination, including harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

6. *Underscores* that domestic violence is of public concern and that States have the primary responsibility for protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls facing violence, including those facing domestic violence;

7. *Urges* States to support initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and at preventing, responding to, and protecting women and girls from, domestic violence, undertaken by, inter alia, relevant women's and men's organizations, international and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, media, faith and community groups, religious leaders, parliamentarians, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and other relevant civil society actors, as part of their efforts to develop targeted and accessible programmes and policies;

8. *Calls upon* States to take effective action to prevent domestic violence, including by:

(*a*) Publicly condemning, addressing and penalizing the perpetrators of offences involving physical, sexual and psychological violence and economic deprivation occurring in the family, which encompasses but is not limited to battering, sexual abuse of women and girls in the household, incest, dowry-related violence, marital rape, partner violence, femicide, female infanticide, crimes committed against women and girls in the name of so-called "honour", crimes committed in the name of passion, practices harmful to women and girls such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation;

(*b*) Preventing violations and taking steps to prevent abuses of all human rights of women and girls, devoting particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls, eliminating prejudices, harmful practices and gender stereotypes and raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, at all levels;

(*c*) Accelerating efforts to develop, review and strengthen inclusive policies, including by allocating adequate resources to address the structural and underlying causes of domestic violence against women and girls, to overcome gender stereotypes, to

encourage media to examine the impact of gender-role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements that foster gender-based violence and inequalities, to promote zero tolerance for such violence and to remove the stigma of being a victim and survivor of violence, thus creating an enabling and accessible environment where women and girls can easily report incidents of violence and make use of the services available, including protection and assistance programmes;

(*d*) Ensuring access to justice and effective remedies for domestic violence, to ensure accountability of perpetrators as a deterrent for domestic violence against women and girls;

(*e*) Promoting effective preventive measures at an early stage with women, families and children exposed to or at risk of domestic violence, such as parenting education and programmes and child counselling services, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or re-victimization;

(*f*) Emphasizing the important role that men and boys can play in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, and further developing and implementing measures that reinforce non-violent actions, attitudes and values, and encourage men and boys to take an active part and become strategic partners and allies in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and the importance of effectively responding to violence against boys as well, in order to break intergenerational cycles of violence;

(*g*) Promoting primary prevention efforts with a coordinated range of mutually reinforcing strategies to drive a change in the culture, attitudes and behaviour that underpin violence against women and girls;

(*h*) Taking measures to empower women by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and ensuring their full and equal participation in society and in decision-making processes by adopting and implementing social and economic policies that guarantee women full and equal access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education,[1] and training and affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as full and equal access to financial resources and decent work, and full and equal rights to own and have access to and control over land and other property, and guaranteeing women's and girls' inheritance rights;

9. *Also calls upon* States to take effective action to respond to domestic violence, including by:

(*a*) Adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, including partner violence and marital rape, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence;

(*b*) Ensuring women's and girls' unimpeded access to justice, effective legal assistance and information regarding their rights without discrimination so that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through, where necessary, the adoption of national legislation;

[1] The *UNESCO International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education: An evidence-informed approach for schools, teachers and health educators* (2009) defines "sexuality education" as an age-appropriate, culturally relevant approach to teaching about sex and relationships by providing scientifically accurate, realistic and non-judgemental information. Sexuality education provides opportunities to explore one's own values and attitudes and to build decision-making, communication and risk-reduction skills about many aspects of sexuality.

(*c*) Exercising due diligence to prevent, investigate and penalize all forms of violence against women and girls and to ensure accountability for acts of domestic violence, including by providing safe and appropriate complaint channels;

(*d*) Creating, developing and implementing a set of policies, and supporting the establishment of rehabilitative services, in order to encourage and bring changes in the attitudes and behaviour of perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, including in cases of domestic violence, rape and harassment, as well as monitoring and assessing their impact and effect;

(*e*) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels to provide immediate protection and support through which shelter and legal, health and psychological counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, and promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(*f*) Providing training to relevant public officials in law enforcement, the administration of justice, and education and health sectors to be aware of, and responsive, sensitive and diligent with regard to the nature, incidence, underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of domestic violence;

10. *Urges* States to take effective action to protect victims of domestic violence. including by:

(*a*) Providing relevant, comprehensive, victim-centered legal protections to support and assist victims of domestic violence within the framework of their national legal systems, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures throughout the criminal and civil justice system, such as specialized courts, protection orders, the use of threat assessments and risk analysis tools, and provisions to address their special needs as witnesses, at all stages of investigations and judicial proceedings;

(*b*) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, that are adequately resourced and include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, police and the justice sector, legal aid services, health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health. and medical and psychological assistance and counselling services, as well as State and independent women's shelters and counselling centres, 24-hour hotlines, social aid services, one-stop crisis centres, child aid services, skills training and public housing services that would provide easy to reach and safe assistance for women and children, including women and girls with disabilities, as well as assistance, protection and support through access to long-term accommodation;

(*c*) Fulfilling their obligations at all levels to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those of women and girls, and exercising due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account perpetrators, and to eliminate impunity and provide for access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors, and should ensure the protection and empowerment of women and girls, including through adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions;

(*d*) Establishing and/or strengthening police and health workers' response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence and to prevent further acts of domestic violence;

11. *Also urges* States to ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population

and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care, such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

12. *Encourages* States to improve the collection, harmonization and use of data disaggregated by sex, administrative data, including, where appropriate, from the police, the health sector and the judiciary, on incidents of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and victim and geographic location, ensuring that confidentiality and ethical and safety considerations are taken into account in the process of data collection, and improving the effectiveness of the services and programmes provided and protecting the safety and security of the victim;

13. *Reaffirms* the importance of a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including a target on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres by 2030, and looks forward to the integration of a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda and the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment into all sustainable development goals, as reflected in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[2] which is the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered;

14. *Welcomes* the mandate and the work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and takes note of the thematic report on regional initiatives to combat violence against women;[3]

15. *Notes* that, in its report,[4] the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice underlines the pervasiveness of domestic violence and the negative impact it has on women and on society as a whole;

16. *Welcomes* the panel discussion on domestic violence against women and girls, held during the annual full-day discussion on women's human rights at the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a summary report on the discussion to the Council at its thirtieth session;

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[2] See General Assembly resolution 68/309, and A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[3] A/HRC/29/27.

[4] A/HRC/29/40.

17. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences as a matter of high priority and in conformity with its annual programme of work.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/15. Human rights and climate change

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on human rights and climate change,

Reaffirming the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objectives and principles thereof, and emphasizing that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights as enunciated in the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention,[1]

Reaffirming also the commitment to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through long-term cooperative action, in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

Acknowledging that, as stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Acknowledging also that, as stated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impact on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty,

Affirming that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international, regional and national policymaking in the area of climate change, promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes,

[1] FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, dec.1/CP.16.

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Emphasizing that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right to development, and recalling that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Expressing concern that, while these implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the adverse effects of climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, national or social origin, birth or other status and disability,

Expressing concern also that countries lacking the resources for implementing their adaptation plans and programmes of action and effective adaptation strategies may suffer from higher exposure to extreme weather events, in both rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries, including those in least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries with more climate vulnerability,

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of non-nationals who may face challenges associated with implementing appropriate responses in extreme weather conditions owing to their status and who may have limited access to information and services, resulting in barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights,

Affirming the commitment to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and to implement further the Nairobi Work Programme of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming the holding of the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015, in Paris,

Noting the importance of facilitating meaningful interaction between the human rights and climate change communities in order to build capacity to deliver responses to climate change, as outlined in the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action,

Noting also the establishment and the advocacy of the Climate Vulnerable Forum,

1. *Expresses concern* that climate change has contributed to the increase of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events, and that these events have adverse effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Emphasizes* the urgent importance of continuing to address, as they relate to States' human rights obligations, the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly in developing countries and the people whose situation is most vulnerable to climate change, especially those in a situation of extreme poverty, and deteriorating livelihood conditions;

3. *Decides* to incorporate into its programme of work for the thirty-first session, on the basis of the different elements contained in the present resolution, a panel discussion on the adverse impact of climate change on States' efforts to progressively realize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and related policies, lessons learned and good practices;

4. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with and taking into account the views of States, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations and intergovernmental bodies, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other stakeholders, to conduct, from within existing resources, a

detailed analytical study on the relationship between climate change and the human right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health to be submitted to the Council prior to its thirty-first session and with a view to informing the panel discussion mandated in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its session following the panel discussion, a summary report, including any recommendations stemming therefrom, for consideration of further follow-up action;

6. *Invites* the special procedures mandate holders, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society organizations, to contribute actively to the panel discussion;

7. *Encourages* relevant special procedures mandate holders to continue to consider the issue of climate change and human rights within their respective mandates;

8. *Decides* to consider the possibility of organizing follow-up events on climate change and human rights within its future programme of work;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide all the human and technical assistance necessary for the effective and timely realization of the above-mentioned panel discussion, the summary report thereon, and the analytical study;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/16. The grave and deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming all previous Human Rights Council resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic,

Condemning the grave deterioration of the human rights situation and the indiscriminate or deliberate targeting of civilians as such, in violation of international humanitarian law, and acts of violence that foment sectarian tensions,

Condemning also the damage to and destruction of the cultural heritage of the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the organized looting and trafficking of its cultural property,

Expressing its deepest concern at the findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the report into the credibility of certain evidence with regard to the torture and execution of persons incarcerated by the current Syrian regime regarding the allegations contained in the evidence presented by "Caesar" in January 2014,[1]

Noting the observation of the Commission of Inquiry that, since March 2011, the Syrian authorities have conducted widespread attacks against the civilian population as a matter of policy,

Deploring the lack of cooperation by the Syrian authorities with the Commission of Inquiry,

Expressing full support for the diplomatic efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Syrian Arab Republic aimed at finding a political solution on the

[1] See S/2014/244, annex.

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basis of the Geneva communiqué, including for the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive powers,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and notes the importance of the work of the Commission of Inquiry and the information it has collected in support of the future accountability efforts, in particular the information on alleged perpetrators violating international law;

2. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and the Commission of Inquiry by granting the Commission immediate, full and unfettered access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic;

3. *Strongly condemns* the continued gross, systematic and widespread violations and abuses of human rights and all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and affiliated militias, including foreign terrorist fighters and those foreign organizations fighting on behalf of the Syrian authorities, in particular Hizbullah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq and Liwa' Abu al-Fadl al-Abbas;

4. *Also strongly condemns* the widespread use of sexual violence and torture in detention centres, noting that such acts constitute violations of international human rights law or violations of international humanitarian law, and calls for the appropriate international monitoring bodies to be granted access to detainees in government prisons and detention centres and for the Syrian authorities to publish a list of all detention facilities;

5. *Further strongly condemns* all arbitrary detention of individuals by the Syrian authorities and demands the immediate release of all persons detained, including individuals affiliated with non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council, such as the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression;

6. *Strongly condemns* the continued use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, including chlorine gas, which is prohibited under international law, and demands that the Syrian Arab Republic respect fully its international obligations, including the requirement that it declare its programme in full and eliminate it in its entirety;

7. *Condemns* the use by the Syrian authorities of heavy weapons, cluster munitions and aerial bombardments, including any indiscriminate use of ballistic missiles and barrel bombs and the shelling of medical facilities, and also condemns the starvation of civilians as a method of combat against the Syrian population;

8. *Strongly condemns* the terrorist acts and violence committed against civilians by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Daesh), al-Nusra Front and other extremist groups, condemns in the strongest terms the violent extremist ideology professed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Daesh) and its continued gross, systematic and widespread abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and reaffirms that terrorism, including the actions of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Daesh), cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization;

9. *Condemns* all violations and abuses of international human rights law and all violations of international humanitarian law, including against women and children, as well as persons with disabilities, and urges all parties to the conflict not to commit indiscriminate attacks, including those that affect civilian populations and objects, to demilitarize medical facilities and schools, to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and to respect human rights;

10. *Strongly condemns* violence against all persons on the basis of their religious or ethnic affiliation, and calls upon all parties to respect fully international law;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to support the leadership and full participation of women in all efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Syrian Arab Republic, as envisaged by the Security Council in its resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or violations and abuses of human rights law are held to account through appropriate, fair and independent domestic or international criminal justice mechanisms, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards this goal, noting the important role that the International Criminal Court can play in this regard;

13. *Reaffirms* that, in the context of an inclusive and credible dialogue, the Syrian people should determine the appropriate process and mechanisms to achieve justice, reconciliation, truth and accountability for gross violations and abuses of international law, as well as reparations and effective remedies for victims;

14. *Expresses deep concern* at the growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons fleeing the violence, welcomes the efforts by neighbouring countries to host Syrian refugees, and acknowledges the socioeconomic consequences of the presence of large-scale refugee populations in those countries;

15. *Deplores* the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and urges the international community to provide urgent financial support to enable the host countries to respond to the growing humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees, while emphasizing the principle of burden-sharing;

16. *Welcomes* the outcome of the third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, held on 31 March 2015 in Kuwait City, expresses its appreciation to donor States, and calls upon all members of the international community to respond expeditiously to the Syrian humanitarian appeals and to fulfil all previous pledges;

17. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities facilitate, and that all other parties to the conflict do not hinder, the full, immediate and safe access of the United Nations and humanitarian actors, including to besieged areas, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014) of 14 July 2014 and 2191 (2014) of 17 December 2014, and calls upon Member States to fund fully the United Nations appeals;

18. *Reaffirms* that there can only be a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, and urges the parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic to abstain from actions that may contribute to the continuing deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in order to reach a genuine political transition based on the Geneva communiqué.

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 6, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Viet Nam]

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29/17. Situation of human rights in Belarus

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments,

Recalling all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Belarus, including Council resolution 26/25 of 27 June 2014, and deploring the inadequate response and lack of cooperation by the Government of Belarus to the requests made by the Council in those resolutions, including the denial of access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures mandate holders to the country,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus;[1]

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continuing violations of human rights in Belarus, which are of a systemic and systematic nature, as well as at the use of torture and ill-treatment in custody, the lack of response by the Government of Belarus to cases of enforced disappearance of political opponents, the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, the violations of labour rights amounting to forced labour, the significant gaps in anti-discrimination legislation, the pressure on defence lawyers and the lack of participation of opposition political parties in Parliament;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of Belarus to carry out a comprehensive review of relevant legislation, policies, strategies and practices to ensure that the provisions are clearly defined, consistent with international human rights law and with its human rights obligations and commitments, and not used to impede or unduly restrict the exercise of any human right, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful

[1] A/HRC/29/43 and A/69/307.

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assembly and the right to freedom of association, including to form and join a trade union, as well as the freedom of the media;

4. *Notes* the continued attention paid by the Special Rapporteur to the issue of the death penalty in Belarus, and encourages the parliamentary working group on the death penalty to expedite its work;

5. *Urges* the Government of Belarus to carry out a comprehensive reform of the justice sector and bar associations in order to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the right to an effective review of sentences and convictions by a higher tribunal established by law and to freely chosen legal representation throughout all proceedings, as well as the availability of information on the implementation of all sentences, while encouraging the Government to continue recent attempts to reform the judiciary;

6. *Strongly urges* the Government of Belarus to release immediately and unconditionally and rehabilitate fully all political prisoners, to ensure that those who have been released are immediately and fully reinstated in their civil and political rights, in particular in view of the presidential election of October 2015, to address, through comprehensive, transparent and credible investigations, reports of torture and ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials and to prosecute alleged perpetrators and punish those found guilty, and to put an immediate end to the arbitrary arrest, detention and harassment of human rights defenders, political opponents and journalists, to arbitrary travel bans and to other policies aimed at intimidating representatives of the political opposition and the media, as well as human rights defenders and civil society organizations;

7. *Regrets* that Belarus has not yet taken necessary steps ahead of the presidential election of October 2015 to reform its electoral legislation, in accordance with the recommendations made in this regard by the Special Rapporteur and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and urges Belarus to ensure that the presidential election is free, fair, inclusive and peaceful while providing for equal treatment of all candidates before, during and after the vote, and to issue an early invitation to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for it to conduct a potential election observation mission based on a timely needs-assessment mission;

8. *Strongly encourages* the Government of Belarus to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and to enhance the progress made towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus for a period of one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the situation of human rights in Belarus to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session;

10. *Urges* the Government of Belarus to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, including by providing him access to visit the country and the information necessary to facilitate the fulfilment of the mandate;

11. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance and resources necessary to allow the fulfilment of the mandate.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 21 to 8, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Maldives, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, India, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/18

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 4

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/18. Situation of human rights in Eritrea

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling resolution 91 and decisions 250/2002 and 275/2003 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling also its resolution 5/1, on institution-building of the Human Rights Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, both of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling further its resolutions 20/20 of 6 July 2012, 23/21 of 14 June 2013 and 26/24 of 27 June 2014,

Commending the commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea for completing its work in a transparent, impartial and consultative manner,

Deeply regretting the lack of cooperation by the Government of Eritrea with the commission of inquiry and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, including the lack of access to the country,

Stressing the importance of the first-hand accounts of victims and witnesses who delivered testimonies at the confidential interviews held by the commission and through written submissions,

Emphasizing that everyone has the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and expressing grave concern that national elections in Eritrea have not been held since 1993 and that the Constitution of 1997 has never been implemented,

Reiterating its deep concern at the ongoing reports of grave violations of human rights by the Eritrean authorities against their own population and fellow citizens,

GE.15-12364(E)

Please recycle

Expressing deep concern at the commission's findings that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been and are being committed by the Government of Eritrea, and that the violations in the areas of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment, including sexual violence and abuse, national service and forced labour may constitute crimes against humanity,

Noting with grave concern the continued use by the Government of Eritrea of arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and in life-threatening conditions, of persons for suspected of evasion of national service, attempting to flee the country or having a family member who has fled, inability to produce identity documents, being a journalist, exercising the right to freedom of religion, being perceived as critical of the Government, and of those who return to the country, as well as those detained in the aftermath of the takeover on 21 January 2013 of the building housing the Ministry of Information,

Expressing grave concern at the widespread use of indefinite conscription into national service, a system that constitutes forced labour, and the reported forced conscription of children under the age of 18 into military service, and regretting that the fear and experience of a lengthy national service causes large numbers of Eritreans to leave the country,

Expressing grave concern also at reports that the Government of Eritrea is also forcing persons to participate in its citizen militia,

Deeply concerned that the situation of human rights in Eritrea incites an ever-increasing number of Eritreans to leave their country, often facing risks of abduction, abhorrent physical and mental abuse and other ill-treatment on their migration path, abused by smugglers and human traffickers,

Reaffirming that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

Noting the participation of Eritrea in the second cycle of the universal periodic review and its approval of several recommendations, while regretting the lack of implementation by Eritrea of the recommendations made at its first review,

Recalling the obligations of Eritrea under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the commission of inquiry on the situation of human rights in Eritrea,[1] and notes the importance of the work of the commission of inquiry and the information it has collected in support of future accountability efforts;

2. *Also welcomes* the third report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea;[2]

3. *Strongly condemns* the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations that have been and are being committed by the Government of Eritrea in a climate of generalized impunity;

4. *Condemns in particular* the extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary and incommunicado detentions, and human rights

[1] A/HRC/29/42.
[2] A/HRC/29/41.

violations in the context of indefinite national service, including those involving forced labour, forced military conscription of children and sexual violence;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* at the severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of information, liberty of movement, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and at the detention of journalists, human rights defenders, political actors, religious leaders and practitioners in Eritrea;

6. *Reiterates* its numerous calls upon the Government of Eritrea, without delay:

(*a*) To end its use of arbitrary detention of its citizens, and to end the use of torture or other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment;

(*b*) To account for and release all political prisoners, including members of the G-15 reform group and journalists;

(*c*) To account for those detained in the aftermath of the takeover on 21 January 2013 of the building housing the Ministry of Information, and to release them or to ensure that they are given a free and fair trial, with full respect for due process;

(*d*) To ensure free and fair access to an independent judicial system for those detained, and to improve prison conditions, including by prohibiting the use of underground cells and shipping containers to hold prisoners, ending the use of secret detention centres and secret courts and the practice of incommunicado detention, allowing regular access to prisoners for relatives, legal advocates and other competent and legally authorized authorities and institutions, and to grant unhindered access to medical care;

(*e*) To put an end to the system of indefinite national service by demobilizing the national service conscripts who have completed their mandatory 18 months of service, as announced by the Government of Eritrea, and by effectively ending the practice of engaging them in forced labour after such a period, to provide for conscientious objection to military service, and to end the compulsory practice of all children undertaking the final year of schooling in a military training camp;

(*f*) To end the practice of forcing citizens to participate in the militia;

(*g*) To investigate promptly all allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment rape and sexual abuse within the national service, and to bring perpetrators to justice;

(*h*) To end the practice of shooting at Eritrean citizens attempting to cross the border to flee the country;

(*i*) To collaborate with human rights and humanitarian organizations and to allow them to operate in Eritrea without fear or intimidation in order to facilitate the full implementation of the Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework for 2013-2016 signed by the Government of Eritrea and the United Nations on 28 January 2013, as well as other human rights-related projects;

(*j*) To respect everyone's right to freedom of expression and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;

(*k*) To enhance further the promotion and protection of women's rights, including by taking additional measures to combat harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;

(*l*) To implement the recommendations made during its second universal periodic review, to report on progress made and to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review during its third cycle;

(*m*) To end "guilt-by-association" policies that target family members of those who evade national service or seek to flee Eritrea;

(*n*) To cooperate fully with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with its international human rights obligations by, inter alia, allowing unhindered access to a further mission by the Office as requested by the High Commissioner, the human rights treaty bodies and all mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and to cooperate with all international and regional human rights mechanisms;

(*o*) To provide the Office of the High Commissioner with all relevant information on the identity, safety, well-being and whereabouts of all detained persons and persons missing in action, including members of the G-15, journalists, those detained in the aftermath of the takeover on 21 January 2013 of the building housing the Ministry of Information, and the 19 Djiboutian combatants;

(*p*) To allow the creation of political parties and to hold free, fair and transparent democratic elections at all levels, in accordance with international democratic standards;

(*q*) To account for the modalities and the progress of the expert group appointed to work on a constitution for Eritrea, while implementing the Constitution of 1997 in the meantime, and to govern in accordance with the principles of the rule of law;

7. *Urges* Eritrea to make available information pertaining to the Djiboutian combatants missing in action since the clashes of 10 to 12 June 2008 so that those concerned may ascertain the presence and condition of Djiboutian prisoners of war;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to take immediate and concrete steps to implement recommendations made by the commission of inquiry in its report in order to address the dire situation of human rights in the country;

9. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea for a period of one year, and requests the mandate holder to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session and to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

10. *Also decides* to extend, for a period of one year, the mandate of the commission of inquiry to investigate systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in Eritrea with a view to ensuring full accountability, including where these violations may amount to crimes against humanity;

11. *Requests* the commission of inquiry to present an oral update to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and a written report to the Council at its thirty-second session;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and the commission of inquiry, to permit them and their staff members unrestricted access to visit the country, to give due consideration to the recommendations contained in the reports of the Special Rapporteur, and to provide them with the information necessary for the fulfilment of their mandates, and underlines the importance for all States to lend their support to the Special Rapporteur and the commission of inquiry for the discharge of their mandates;

13. *Urges* the international community to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and the commission of inquiry;

14. *Also urges* the international community to strengthen efforts and collaboration to ensure the protection of those fleeing from Eritrea, in particular the increasing number of unaccompanied children;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur and the commission of inquiry with all information and the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates;

16. *Decides* to transmit all reports and oral updates of the commission of inquiry to all relevant bodies of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, for appropriate action;

17. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to enhance engagement in improving the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and to report on progress in the cooperation between Eritrea and the Office to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session;

18. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/19

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 5

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/19. The Social Forum

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted on the Social Forum by the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as by the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 6/13 of 28 September 2007, 10/4 of 25 March 2009, 10/29 of 27 March 2009, 13/17 of 25 March 2010, 16/26 of 25 March 2011, 19/24 of 23 March 2012, 24/25 of 27 September 2013 and 26/28 of 27 June 2014,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty remain an ethical and moral imperative of humankind, based on the respect for human dignity,

Reaffirming the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of Member States and civil society, including grass-roots organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and stressing that the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Forum as a vital space for open and fruitful dialogue on issues linked with the national and international environment needed for the promotion of the enjoyment of all human rights by all,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Chairman-Rapporteur of the 2015 Social Forum,[1] held in Geneva from 18 to 20 February 2015;

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2015 Social Forum, and encourages States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and other relevant actors to take them into account when designing and implementing programmes and strategies;

[1] A/HRC/29/44.

GE.15-12368(E)

Please recycle

3. *Reaffirms* the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including the contribution of civil society and grass-roots organizations, and stresses the need to ensure greater participation of grass-roots organizations and of those living in poverty, particularly women, especially from developing countries, in the sessions of the Forum;

4. *Underlines* the importance of coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity and of addressing the social dimension and challenges of the ongoing globalization process and the negative impact of the current economic and financial crises;

5. *Stresses* the need for increased and sustained participation and contribution of civil society and all other relevant actors listed in the present resolution to the promotion and effective realization of the right to development;

6. *Decides* that the Social Forum will meet for three working days in 2016, in Geneva, on dates suitable for the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, especially from developing countries, and also decides that, at its next meeting, the Forum should focus on the promotion and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities in the context of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

7. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint, as early as possible, from candidates nominated by regional groups, the Chairperson-Rapporteur for the 2016 Social Forum, bearing in mind the principle of regional rotation;

8. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make available the most recent and relevant United Nations reports and documents on the promotion and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities as background documents for the dialogues and debates that will be held at the 2016 Social Forum;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate the participation in the 2016 Social Forum, in order to contribute to interactive dialogues and debate at the Forum and to assist the Chairperson-Rapporteur as resource persons, of no fewer than 10 experts, including representatives of civil society and grass-roots organizations in developing countries, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;

10. *Decides* that the Social Forum will remain open to the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and all other interested stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, different components of the United Nations system, especially mandate holders of thematic procedures and mechanisms of the human rights machinery, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies and organizations, as well as representatives designated by human rights national institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and will also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants' and farmers' organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, environmental organizations and activists, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, as well as representatives of the private sector, on the basis of arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open

and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation of representatives from every region, in particular, representatives of persons with disabilities, especially those from developing countries, in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, to invite relevant individuals and organizations to the Forum and to take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative;

13. *Invites* the 2016 Social Forum to submit a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Social Forum with all the services and facilities necessary to fulfil its activities, including by making the discussions fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and requests the High Commissioner to provide all the support necessary to facilitate the convening and proceedings of the Forum;

15. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the discussions of the Social Forum so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;

16. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue at its thirty-second session under the same agenda item.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/20

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Agenda item 9

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 2 July 2015

29/20. The incompatibility between democracy and racism

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international documents,

Recalling also the commitment reached in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action concerning the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling further the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,

Acknowledging that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, in its paragraphs 81 and 85, and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, in its paragraphs 10 and 11, recognize the incompatibility between democracy and racism,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 68/237 of 23 December 2013, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", and 69/16 of 18 November 2014, in which it adopted the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 18/15 of 29 September 2011 and Council decision 2/106 of 27 November 2006, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2000/40 of 20 April 2000, 2001/43 of 23 April 2001, 2002/39 of 23 April 2002, 2003/41 of 23 April 2003, 2004/38 of 19 April 2004 and 2005/36 of 19 April 2005, on the incompatibility between democracy and racism,

Bearing in mind all relevant reports of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and of the United

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Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the incompatibility between democracy and racism,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the High Commissioner on the incompatibility between democracy and racism, presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session,[1]

Remaining alarmed at the rise of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in political circles, in the sphere of public opinion and in society at large,

Emphasizing that democracy, transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governance responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential for the effective prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Reaffirming that acts of racial violence do not constitute legitimate expressions of opinion but rather unlawful acts or offences, and that acts of racism and discrimination endorsed by Governments and public authorities may threaten democracy,

Recognizing the importance of freedom of speech and expression and the fundamental role of education and other active policies in the promotion of tolerance and respect for others and in the construction of pluralistic and inclusive societies,

Condemning political platforms and organizations based on racism, xenophobia or doctrines of racial superiority and related discrimination, and legislation and practices based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as incompatible with democracy and transparent and accountable governance,

Emphasizing the importance that States reinforce their commitment to promote tolerance and human rights and to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as a way to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and transparent and accountable governance,

Reaffirming that any form of impunity condoned by public authorities for crimes motivated by racist and xenophobic attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy and tends to encourage the recurrence of such acts,

1. *Reaffirms* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance condoned by governmental policies violate human rights, as established in the relevant international and regional human rights instruments, and are incompatible with democracy, the rule of law and transparent and accountable governance;

2. *Decides* to convene, at its thirty-first session, a panel discussion on the incompatibility between democracy and racism with a view to identifying challenges and good practices;

3. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize the panel discussion in consultation with States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with civil society, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and specialized national equality bodies as appropriate with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

[1] A/HRC/21/27.

4. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion for submission to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-second session.

44th meeting
2 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/21

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 2

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 3 July 2015

29/21. Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling President's statement PRST 23/1 of 14 June 2015,

Noting all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the latest being Council resolution 28/23 of 27 March 2015,

Stressing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Condemning all violations and abuses of human rights in Myanmar, in particular against Rohingya Muslims and persons belonging to other minorities, resulting in their socioeconomic exploitation, including forced displacement,

Noting with concern the irregular migration in the Andaman Sea of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar and their exploitation by criminal rings, and welcoming the commitments by Governments in the region to provide temporary shelter and protection to them,

Acknowledging that the denial of citizenship status and related rights to Rohingya Muslims and others, including voting rights, is a serious human rights concern,

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation with the Government of Myanmar in taking all necessary measures to promote and protect human rights in its territory without any discrimination, including against Rohingya Muslims and members of other communities in Myanmar,

1. *Condemns* the systematic gross violations of human rights and abuses committed in Rakhine State, in particular against Rohingya Muslims;

GE.15-12365(E)

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2. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to ensure the protection of human rights of all persons in Myanmar, including of Rohingya Muslims;

3. *Also calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to take the necessary measures to address the spread of discrimination and prejudice against Muslims and members of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities across the country, and to combat the incitement of hatred against Muslims by publicly condemning such acts;

4. *Calls upon* political and religious leaders in the country to work for a peaceful resolution through dialogue towards national unity;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to ensure accountability and to end impunity for all violations of human rights, including in particular against Muslims, by undertaking a full, transparent and independent investigation into reports of all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

6. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to prevent the discrimination and exploitation, including through trafficking, of Rohingya Muslims and others by addressing the root causes compelling them to be more vulnerable and exposed to such acts;

7. *Also urges* the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to prevent the destruction of places of worship, cemeteries, infrastructure and commercial or residential buildings belonging to all peoples;

8. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar, in conjunction with the international community and in accordance with international law, to ensure the safe and voluntary return of all refugees and persons displaced from their homes, including Muslims;

9. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to grant full citizenship rights, in keeping within a transparent due process, to Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State, including by reviewing the 1982 Citizenship Law;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to ensure full cooperation with all parties and to allow full access of humanitarian assistance to affected persons and communities, and in this regard urges the Government to implement the various cooperation agreements not yet implemented made between the authorities of Myanmar and the international community for the distribution of humanitarian aid to all affected areas, including Rakhine State, without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session and a report at its thirty-second session on the human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, particularly the recent incidents of trafficking and forced displacement of Rohingya Muslims.

45th meeting
3 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/22

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 3 July 2015

29/22. Protection of the family: contribution of the family to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 26/11 of 26 June 2014 entitled "Protection of the family",

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011, 67/142 of 20 December 2012, 68/136 of 18 December 2013 and 69/144 of 18 December 2014, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for, and observance and commemoration of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a unique opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to the advancement of human rights and development,

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Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all human beings,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Reaffirming that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State,

Noting with concern that the contribution of the family in society and in the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked and underemphasized, and recognizing the potential of the family to contribute to national development and to the achievement of major objectives of every society and of the United Nations, including the eradication of poverty and the creation of just, stable and secure societies,

Conscious that the majority of the internationally agreed development goals, especially those relating to the reduction of poverty, education of children and the reduction of maternal mortality, would be difficult to attain unless the strategies to achieve them focus on the family, which can contribute positively to, inter alia, eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the panel discussion on the protection of the family and its members by the Human Rights Council on 15 September 2014, during its twenty-seventh session, and takes note of the summary of the panel discussion contained in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the holding of a plenary meeting during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in December 2014, on the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in order to discuss the role of family-oriented policies in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and acknowledges all other international and regional initiatives in the context of celebrating that anniversary;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to fulfil the objectives guiding the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels, and urges States to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

4. *Reaffirms* that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State;

[1] A/HRC/28/40.

5. *Also reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all human beings, and stresses the fundamental importance of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members;

6. *Recognizes* that the family, while respect for the rights of its members is ensured, is a strong force for social cohesion and integration, intergenerational solidarity and social development, and that the family plays a crucial role in the preservation of cultural identity, traditions, morals, heritage and the values system of society;

7. *Conscious* that families are sensitive to strain caused by social and economic changes, and expresses deep concern that conditions have worsened for many families owing to economic and financial crises, lack of job security, temporary employment and lack of regular income and gainful employment, as well as measures taken by Governments seeking to balance their budget by reducing social expenditure;

8. *Recognizes* that the family unit is facing increasing vulnerabilities;

9. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect the rights of the child, and in this regard calls upon States to render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities in the best interests of the child, bearing in mind that a child should grow up in a safe and supportive family environment, and giving high priority to the rights of the children, including to survival, protection and development;

11. *Stresses* that equality between women and men, women's equal participation in employment and shared parental responsibility are essential elements of a policy on the family;

12. *Regrets* that women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed and that women continue on many occasions to bear a disproportionate share of household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and elderly, and in this regard emphasizes the need to consistently address such imbalances and to ensure that maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation is not a basis for discrimination nor for restricting the full participation of women in society;

13. *Notes* that single-headed households, child-headed households and intergenerational households are particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion;

14. *Resolves* to pay particular attention to family units headed by women and children, while bearing in mind that a considerable proportion of households worldwide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income, and that female-maintained households are very often among the poorest because of wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers;

15. *Emphasizes* that States should ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life with a view to realizing these rights, and prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, and that

States should take measures to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families;

16. *Stresses* that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute to the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, and that States should, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, make every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting;

17. *Recognizes* the positive impact that policies and measures to protect the family can have on protecting and promoting the human rights of its members and can contribute to, inter alia, decreasing drop-out rates from educational institutions, achieving equality between women and men and girls and boys, empowering women and girls and enhancing the protection against violence, abuses, sexual exploitation, harmful practices and the worst forms of child labour, while bearing in mind that violations and abuses of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of family members adversely affect families and have a negative impact on efforts aimed at protecting the family;

18. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and calls upon States in this regard to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, in the workplace and in society at large;

19. *Recognizes* that stable, supportive and nurturing family relationships, supported by communities and, where available, professional services, can provide a vital shield against substance abuse, particularly among minors;

20. *Urges* States, in accordance with their respective obligations under international human rights law, to provide the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, with effective protection and assistance, and encourages States in this regard to take, as appropriate and to the maximum of their available resources, measures including:

(*a*) Creating family-friendly policies to support the family, and assessing such policies and programmes for their impact on family well-being;

(*b*) Designing, implementing and promoting family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education in order to create an environment supportive of the family, including affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependants, parental and other leave schemes, campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors on equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men;

(*c*) Analysing policies and programmes, including those relating to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment programmes, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy with respect to their impact on family well-being and conditions;

(*d*) Supporting research and developing comprehensive strategies to enhance the ability of families and communities to care for older family members and to reinforce the role of grandparents in raising grandchildren;

(*e*) Addressing the causes and mitigating the consequences of family disintegration;

(*f*) Facilitating, as appropriate, the integration of families into society and their reunification, preservation and protection, including by providing adequate shelter, access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood;

(g) Working towards reducing poverty by, inter alia, granting assistance to families in difficult life situations and increasing the earning power of all adult members of economically deprived families;

(*h*) Providing and promoting the means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, especially for single-parent households with young children, and paying special attention to the needs of widows and orphans through means including health insurance and social security, cash and in-kind transfer programmes, day-care centres and facilities for breastfeeding mothers within the work premises, kindergartens, part-time jobs, paid parental leave, paid maternity leave, flexible work schedules and reproductive and child health-care services;

(*i*) Strengthening or, if necessary, establishing relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies;

21. *Calls upon* States and encourages non-governmental organizations and community organizations concerned to develop innovative ways to provide more effective assistance to families and the individuals within them who may be affected by specific problems, such as extreme poverty, chronic unemployment, illness, domestic and sexual violence, dowry payments, drug or alcohol dependence, incest, child abuse, neglect or abandonment;

22. *Recognizes* the important role of civil society, including research institutes and academia, in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking and, as appropriate, evaluation of family policy development and capacity-building;

23. *Also recognizes* that the family plays a key role in social development, and as such should be strengthened and attention paid to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members, and invites States, the organizations of the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders to take into account the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development, and the need to strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals;

24. *Encourages* States to give due consideration to the role and status of the family in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, and invites States to consider mainstreaming the promotion of family-oriented policies as a cross-cutting issue in the proposed goals and targets of the post-2015 agenda;

25. *Invites* States to consider mainstreaming the promotion of family-oriented policies as a cross-cutting issue in national development plans and programmes;

26. *Highlights* the need for continued inter-agency and regional cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system;

27. *Encourages* States to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;

28. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the treaty bodies, relevant special procedure mandate holders and other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms, within their respective mandates and competence, to pay due attention in their work to the implementation by States of their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law to provide protection and support to the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society;

29. *Requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the impact of the implementation by States of their obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law with regard to the protection of the family, and on the contribution of families in realizing the right to an adequate standard of living for their members,

particularly through their role in poverty eradication and in achieving sustainable development, while giving due consideration to the status of the family in the developments related to the ongoing work on the future sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session;

30. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

45th meeting
3 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 14, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Against:

Albania, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/23

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 July 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 10

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 3 July 2015

29/23. Cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties,

Confirming the primary responsibility of States to promote and protect human rights,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 26/30 of 27 June 2014 on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to assist Ukraine in protecting the rights of all persons in Ukraine, as described by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, and the progress achieved, as well as the challenges and obstacles remaining in this regard,

Welcoming the technical assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and acknowledging the further need for such assistance with due regard to the commitment of the Government of Ukraine to promote and protect human rights on all its territory,

Welcoming also the cooperation of the Government of Ukraine with the Office of the High Commissioner, including its monitoring mission in Ukraine, and with other relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms,

Recognizing the importance of the periodic reports of the Office of the High Commissioner based on the findings of the monitoring mission for the proper assessment of the situation of human rights in Ukraine and an evaluation of the needs for technical assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights,

Recognizing also the need for ongoing reporting, including on the most serious human rights problems within Ukraine and their root causes,

Please recycle

Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present orally to the States Members of the Human Rights Council and observers the findings of each of the periodic reports of the Office of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Ukraine, as part of the interactive dialogues, and through the modalities of the Council, in accordance with its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, until the thirty-second session of the Council.

45th meeting
3 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 21 to 6, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Abstaining:

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/24

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 July 2015
English
Original: French

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 10

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 3 July 2015

29/24
Capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant human rights treaties,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling further Council resolutions S-14/1 of 23 December 2010 and 16/25 of 25 March 2011, on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, and 17/21 of 17 June 2011, establishing the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, and resolutions 20/19 of 6 July 2012 and 23/22 of 14 June 2013 renewing the mandate of the Independent Expert, as well as resolution 26/32 of 27 June 2014 establishing the mandate for capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights,

Reaffirming that all States have a responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,

Welcoming the establishment of a compensation fund for victims of the post-election crisis with an initial capital of 10 billion CFA francs, or approximately US$ 18 million, and the establishment of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation for Victims,

Noting that the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire has improved significantly and that it should nevertheless be monitored, given the numerous challenges, notably the restoration of peace, national reconciliation and combating impunity,

Concerned at the continuing sporadic armed attacks on the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire in the exercise of their mandate to protect civilians,

Please recycle

1. *Condemns* the continuing sporadic attacks by unidentified armed individuals in Côte d'Ivoire, which are liable to thwart the joint efforts of the Ivorian people and the international community to bring security and peace to the country;

2. *Welcomes* the general stability in the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, as indicated in the most recent report of the Secretary-General on Côte d'Ivoire,[1] as well as the work of the Special Investigation Unit, the National Security Council and the National Programme for Social Cohesion, particularly with regard to their roles in early warnings, prevention of human rights violations and reconciliation;

3. *Also welcomes* the exemplary and continuing cooperation of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire with the United Nations human rights machinery and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, and encourages the continuation of efforts to end all human rights violations in the country, to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts and to help victims;

4. *Further welcomes* the progress achieved by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in promoting respect for and the protection of human rights, notably its constructive dialogue with the members of the Human Rights Council during the universal periodic review in April 2014 and the presentation of its initial report to the Human Rights Committee[2] in March 2015;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to align its domestic legal framework with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, particularly its positive initiative towards abolishing the death penalty, and the introduction into its domestic legal framework of international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, superior responsibility for war crimes and the non-applicability of any statute of limitations to such international crimes;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire to enhance capacity in the judicial system, notably through the renovation of courts, legislative reforms to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure and the reopening of the assize courts, and calls upon the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen human resource capacity, to ensure that legal proceedings conform to international standards for a fair trial and to prosecute all the alleged perpetrators of human rights violations, particularly those committed during the post-election crisis;

7. *Also welcomes* in that regard the renewal of the Special Investigation Unit, encourages the acceleration of the national processes of investigation and prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of the violence committed during the 2010-2011 post-election period and calls for the full implementation of the mandate of the National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation for Victims;

8. *Further welcomes* the continuing work in the political framework for ongoing dialogue aimed at facilitating inclusive political pluralism and notes the continued cooperation with the International Criminal Court and the adoption of new legislation, which constitute important progress in strengthening the legislative framework and in promoting and protecting human rights;

9. *Notes* the continuation of the trial of some members of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire and the acceleration of the process of investigation and prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of the violence committed during the 2010-2011 post-election period;

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[1] S/2015/320.

[2] CCPR/C/CIV/1.

10. *Welcomes* the results achieved by the Authority on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, which represent remarkable progress that has made it possible to consolidate security in the country;

11. *Also welcomes* the reform of the Independent Electoral Commission, which was established after a broad process of consultation with all stakeholders, and the continuation of the electoral process towards fair, free, transparent, inclusive and calm elections;

12. *Takes note* of the oral update provided by the Independent Expert at the twenty-eighth session and his first report presented at the twenty-ninth session,[3] as well as his recommendations;

13. *Applauds* the commitments made by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire during the various sessions of the Human Rights Council to endorse the Independent Expert's recommendations and its fruitful cooperation with the Independent Expert in the framework of his mandate;

14. *Also applauds* the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in ratifying international and regional human rights instruments, particularly the adoption of the Act of 20 June 2014 on promoting and protecting human rights defenders and the adoption in July 2014 of the Act governing prevention, protection and punishment in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and encourages it to continue in that direction and to proceed in its efforts to bring its national legislation into conformity with the international and regional instruments it has ratified, ensuring the effective application of those instruments;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued improvement in the humanitarian situation on the ground and calls upon United Nations agencies and other relevant actors to continue, at the request of the country, to provide assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, in conformity with the measures put in place by the Government, so as to encourage their safe and voluntary return to their homes;

16. *Notes* the importance set by the Ivorian authorities on combating the sexual violence suffered by women and children, notably with the adoption of a national strategy to curb the phenomenon and the efforts made to protect children, and calls upon the Government to do everything possible to carry out investigations into the recurring allegations of violence against women and children;

17. *Requests* the international community to continue to support the reconstruction and reconciliation process under way in Côte d'Ivoire and to provide the assistance requested in the specific areas in which such assistance is necessary, including in strengthening the capacity of the mechanisms for combating violence against women and children;

18. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide the technical assistance requested by the Government to help Côte d'Ivoire to meet its human rights obligations;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to support the national efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire and its institutions to strengthen the rule of law in the country, and to respond to its requests for technical assistance in the humanitarian, educational, health, economic and social spheres;

20. *Also calls upon* the international community to continue to support the national human rights commission, through technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, with a view to enabling it to contribute effectively to the promotion and

[3] A/HRC/29/49.

protection of the fundamental rights of the Ivorian people, in accordance with the Paris Principles;

21. *Decides* therefore to extend the mandate on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights for a period of one year, from the twenty-ninth to the thirty-second sessions of the Human Rights Council;

22. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit a report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session and his final recommendations at its thirty-second session;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

46th meeting
3 July 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]

United Nations A/HRC/RES/29/25

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 2015

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda item 7

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 3 July 2015

29/25. Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling relevant rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other human rights covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recalling further its relevant resolutions, including resolutions S-9/1 of 12 January 2009 and S-21/1 of 23 July 2014, and the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,[1]

Expressing its appreciation to the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict for its comprehensive report,[2]

Affirming the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, reaffirming the obligation to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and deploring the civilian deaths that resulted from the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014, including the killing of 1,462 Palestinian civilians, including 551 children and 299 women, and six Israeli civilians,

[1] A/HRC/12/48.
[2] A/HRC/29/52.

Please recycle

Gravely concerned by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes, including the findings of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, and of the boards of inquiry convened by the Secretary-General,

Condemning all violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, and appalled at the widespread and unprecedented levels of destruction, death and human suffering caused,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967,

Deploring the non-cooperation by Israel with the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict and the refusal to grant access to or to cooperate with international human rights bodies seeking to investigate alleged violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Regretting the lack of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which follows a pattern of lack of implementation of recommendations made by United Nations mechanisms and bodies,

Alarmed that long-standing systemic impunity for international law violations has allowed for the recurrence of grave violations without consequence, and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Emphasizing the need for States to investigate grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to end impunity, uphold their obligations to ensure respect, and promote international accountability,

Noting the accession by Palestine to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict;[2]

2. *Calls upon* all duty bearers and United Nations bodies to pursue the implementation of all recommendations contained in the report of the commission of inquiry, in accordance with their respective mandates;

3. *Notes* the importance of the work of the commission of inquiry and of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict of 2009 and the information collected regarding grave violations in support of future accountability efforts, in particular, information on alleged perpetrators of violations of international law;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law are held to account through appropriate fair and independent domestic or international criminal justice mechanisms, and to ensure the provision of effective remedy to all victims, including reparations, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards these goals;

5. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the preliminary examination of the International Criminal Court and with any subsequent investigation that may be opened;

6. *Calls upon* all States to promote compliance with human rights obligations and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect, and to ensure

respect for, international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions, and to fulfil their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the said Convention with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and the responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties;

7. *Recommends* that the General Assembly remain apprised of the matter until it is satisfied that appropriate action with regard to implementing the recommendations made by the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict in its report has been or is being taken appropriately at the domestic or international levels to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present, as part of the reporting requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict and of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, to the Council at its thirty-first session;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

46th meeting
3 July 2015

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 41 to 1, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Paraguay, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]